

PTA meeting minutes – 4/14/22 (Taken by Sheryl Hirshon as Louise Verga’s proxy)

Call to order – 7:01pm

Next mtg is elections, ID code for eligible voters, incoming parents for Sept 2022 not yet allowed to vote

Motion to approve March minutes – motion carries

Treasurer’s report – vax check \$5,200, Miss Chocolate old debt paid (kudos to an honest company!)

\$100k approx. balance, no large expenses

Qs re: Annual appeal raised >\$20k, some matching checks trickling in, suggestion that more outreach be done with newer families and show breakdown by grade.

Small spending agenda items: Nurse Yana ice packs and sanitary pads (\$150), 4th grade virtual field trip Museum of American Revolution (\$200), Ms Danisi laminating sheets and pouches (\$250)(PTA asked Danisi to remove project from Donor’s Choose so it could fund it directly)

Q: re: more sustainable solution for ice packs (either reusable or bulk order). A: will talk to Nurse Yana

Q: parent offered to donate ice packs in the chat

3 motions: \$150 for Nurse Yana supplies – carries; \$200 for 4th grade virtual field trip – carries; \$250 for Ms Danisi supplies – carries.

VP report: 5th grade graduation events. Admin asked PTA to fund 5th grade outing. 5th grade grad committee formed. This year due to covid it is a parent-led event. Broadway was desired, but not workable this year because of vaccine rules. \$50/student for 5th grade outing to become a line item in the budget to become an ongoing tradition plus teachers. Important to admin to establish tradition.

35 5th graders + 5 teachers/admin = \$2,000 vote. Required guardians will have to pay for themselves.

K parent concerned that school is growing and budget will necessarily grow. A: Fundraisers to be held. Eg, popcorn fundraiser earned over \$4,000, so it is doable.

Parent suggestion that senior dues to be considered.

Q: Parent concerned about lack of communication details re: 5th grade events. A: 5th grade plans are an Admin issue, not a PTA issue. Committee is working with Admin to pin down dates to be communicated. PTA is only involved to fund the 5th grade class trip.

Motion to fund 2022 graduation trip @ \$50/student – carries, with several objections noted

Thanks to Nancy and Jennifer on 5th grade committee.

Popcorn fundraiser – thanks to Ilyse/Rebekah. Raised over \$4,000. Great work. Easy quick successful fundraiser.

President report: Using 1st Day School Supplies again. Being shipped directly to SCHOOL again. Lists are not yet live – hopefully after spring break.

CEC for D28 – Simone selected to join.

Summer Rising is back this summer. Takes place at PS139 (or any other school listed in drop down menu). Spots limited. Not available at AEA. Free summer one-week STEAM program available as well.

Chancellor is making Supts reapply for jobs. Parents are asked to join letter of support for Dr. Pate, who has been a strong leader during pandemic and has helped 303.

Need for school-wide communication system. Louise (PTA Secretary) investigated different options and presented them to Admin and SLT. Admin wanted a robust school-wide communications system, not an extension of the classroom like Class Dojo. Operoo selected – licensed DOE vendor and already integrated into ATS system (which contains student and parent info). Unlimited email addresses per family, supports school texting, Louise negotiated robocalls for no additional cost, integrates all DOE forms (eg, Stripe, field trip permission slips, registration forms). No more handwritten blue cards!! Currently used by PS196 (conferred with their parent coordinator) and other DOE schools. \$4,500/annually (up to 650 students) – price based on size. Can share files, like pictures and News Reel. Includes tech support and upgrades. Other choices not as robust. Admin and teachers also heard good things. Thanks to Louise for her huge amount of research and negotiations.

Motion to approve \$4,500 Operoo contract – carries.

Motion to approve revised bylaws – carries.

SLT report – Paula Goldfarb: can still do School Survey (due 4/15). NYS testing for 3/4/5 grades: ELA taken at end of March, Math will be after spring break. Also discussed the Communication system research by Louise.

Nominations committee: elections are next month – May 12; Lacy said seeking nominations for entire PTA Board (1 yr positions) and 2 SLT spots (2 yr positions), can nominate yourself or others. Currently have 2 nominations (Treasurer and SLT). Prez, Treasurer, Recording Secretary are mandatory PTA positions. Special codes needed for the online election, to come.

Teacher/staff appreciation committee – Onome. 5/3-5/6. (5/2 is a holiday.) Theme: Around the World. Showed copy of banner/signs. Breakfast, teacher gifts (\$1,075) (spirit wear \$17.50 sweatshirts), student activity (handprints) to be displayed on breezeway, shopping cart, lunch, treat (Chip City cookies). Original \$2,400 budget, total 54 teachers/staff. Total amount = \$3,900. Lunch to be

kosher to be inclusive to all staff. Comments to add countries to handprint display. Thanks to the entire committee.

Motion to expand budget to \$4,000 – carries.

Who else wants the AEA sweatshirt that the teachers are getting? Will be available for order for adults/kids after May meeting (another PTA fundraiser).

Racial Equity Committee – Shantelle/Rachael/Heather. Want to start moving from virtual events to in-person events. Admin supports events during school day integrated into the curriculum for all students. Planning arts-based cultural events and activities with professionals/museums (e.g. Louis Armstrong museum, Jewish Museum, El Museo del Barrio, etc.). Funding needed to bring artists/musicians from those organizations into the school. Future plans would include field trips. Requesting \$33.50/student (approx. \$15,000 maximum) for a Juneteenth event in 2022 and 5 other events in 2022/2023 school year. Will apply to as many grade levels as possible. \$ had previously been budgeted for Ms. Stewart-art teacher (\$20,000) and enrichment activities (\$10,000) that was not used. Q: can vote bind new PTA in a different calendar year. A: has been done many times before.

Motion to approve maximum of \$15,000 for Racial Equity programming – carries.

Read-a-thon Fundraiser in May (Lacy/Kiki): asking for funding to purchase prizes in-house for every participant (all based on reading, not amount raised), also get pizza party for most-read class; last year earned \$12,000; get higher % if no prizes by company (80% vs 75%)(would be approx. \$600 more for school). More equitable, better than dinky prizes provided by company. Outer space theme – rocket design to keep track of minutes.

Motion to spend \$1,200 on in-house prizes for Read-a-thon – carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.